



## ON COL. WEST'S CORNER

*This month's newsletter is about men of note in Suffolk's history who lived on the same corner at different times in different homes. The opening articles about Col. J. E. West and his home are written by Col. West's grandsons, Henry and Bill Frazier.*



### JUNIUS EDGAR WEST

(1866-1947)

Junius Edgar West, who served two terms as Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, resided in Suffolk from 1890 to 1947. He was born in Sussex County on July 12, 1866, the fifth son of Henry Thomas West and Susan Cox. He was educated in public and private schools in Sussex County and matriculated in the college preparatory course at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute. He attended college at the University of North Carolina and studied law at both Washington and Lee University and the University of Virginia.

Returning to Waverly, Va., Mr. West taught for a short while in the public schools of Sussex County and became Superintendent of Schools for the County. In 1888 he formed an insurance business with a brother in Waverly and two years later decided to seek greater opportunities in the insurance field in Suffolk, where he joined the firm of Col. L. P. Harper. Mr. West soon became the junior partner in the firm of Harper and West. Upon the death of Col. Harper in 1906, the firm became West and Withers, with J. T. Withers as junior partner. (Following the deaths of these gentlemen the firm became part of Suffolk Insurance Corporation.)

On January 17, 1903, Junius West married Margaret Olive Beale, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Edwin W. Beale of Suffolk. Following the wedding celebration, Mr. West and his bride, known to friends and family as Ollie, departed from the Suffolk Seaboard Airline Railroad passenger station (now the Suffolk Train Station) for a honeymoon in Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Tampa, Florida. Soon after their marriage, the Wests purchased the residence then located at the east corner of West Washington Street and St. James Avenue where they lived for the remainder of his life. (Today it is the site of the parking lot for the West End Baptist Church.) The Wests had one child, a daughter, Margaret Beale West, who was born in 1909.

Col. West was always active in civic affairs. In the early 20th Century Col. West was, for a time, an owner and publisher of the Suffolk Herald, a forerunner of the Suffolk News Herald. He was a charter member of the Suffolk Rotary Club and served as its president in 1924. Col. West served as a director of the Retail Merchants Association and as a director and president the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce. He was also on the Board of Directors of the State Chamber of Commerce. Col. West was a Mason, serving as the Master of Lodge 30 in 1901. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, a Shriner, a Knight Templar, a Pythian, an Elk, an Odd Fellow, a member of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, a member of the Laurel Country Club of Suffolk and of the Westmoreland Club of Richmond. Too old to enter military service in World War I, he was the Chairman of the United War Work Campaign in Suffolk and Nansemond County.

Col. West was a very active layman in the Suffolk Christian Church, chairing many committees, and serving on the Board of Deacons and the Board of Trustees. During the 1890's he organized a Sunday School Class which became the Senior Philathea Class in 1913 and which he taught until his death in 1947. On April 17, 1950, the Young Ladies Bible Class and Senior Philathea Class became one and was renamed "The West Memorial Bible Class". On Sunday, September 17, 1950, a memorial service was held in the classroom at which time a portrait of Col. West was presented to the class.

Col. West was Chairman of the Mission Board of the Southern Convention of the Christian Church and served on the Board of Trustees of Elon College for nearly half a century. His interest in education also lead to his appointment to the Board of Trustees of what is now Longwood College.

Col. West devoted much of his life to public service. He became active in local politics and was elected to Suffolk City Council and served as President of that body. Claude A. Swanson, who served as Governor of Virginia from 1906 to 1910, named West to his staff and bestowed upon him the title of Colonel, by which he was known for the remainder of his life. In 1910 Col. West was elected to the House of Delegates and in 1912 to the State Senate, where he served for ten years. Col. West became a leader in the Democratic Party at the state level. In 1922 and again in 1926 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, serving during the terms of Governors E. Lee Trinkle and Harry Flood Byrd. Col. West served on the Democratic State Central Committee and its Executive Committee, as well as on several local Democratic Executive Committees. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1896 and 1936.

During the years in which Col. West served as Lieutenant Governor, Richard L. Brewer, Jr. of Suffolk served as Speaker of the House of Delegates (from 1920 to 1926) and a third Suffolk citizen, Robert Riddick Prentis, served as Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court of Appeals (from 1925 to 1931). It has been said that "[t]he spotlight that played simultaneously on these three men during an important transition period in the state's history made Suffolk, for a time, a kind of "little capital" of Virginia and conferred upon [the three men]...the unofficial title of "Suffolk's Big Three".

In recognition of his achievements Col. West was selected for inclusion in a number of editions of Who's Who in America. Upon his retirement from political service in Richmond in 1930, the Norfolk Virginian Pilot wrote: "Those who will miss him most are his associates in the Senate, men who day by day have been impressed with his fairness as a presiding officer, his uniform courtesy and his innate kindliness". On January 27, 1932, in the State Senate Chamber in Richmond, Col. West was honored with a formal dedication of his portrait. Senator E. E. Holland of Suffolk made the formal presentation citing the high esteem in which Col. West was held in Suffolk: "I can attest that in Suffolk he is considered a model citizen and is a leader in all religious, civic, social and political activities.



He has been eminently successful, progressive yet conservative, and is always alert and ready to strive for the best interests of Virginia and her citizens". The portrait hangs in the Senate Chamber to this day.

Col. West died on January 1, 1947, in a Richmond hospital where he was being treated for cancer. Louis Jaffee, the Pulitzer Prize Winning Editor of the Norfolk Virginian Pilot described Col. West as a "conspicuous member of the General Assembly [who]...in many ways as an almost ideal legislator.... No inconsiderable part of the most valuable legislation of that transitional period of Virginia history bore his name."

Col. West drew the praise of several men who served as Governor of the Commonwealth. Former Governor Harry Byrd described him as "an indefatigable worker...[who] had a grasp of public matters such as few men of my acquaintance possessed.... [I]t can be very truthfully said of him that his labors in the public service of Virginia were outstanding". Former Governor Colgate Darden wrote that Col. West "has participated in every phase of civic life looking to the betterment of the State...and through his efforts...the people of Virginia have been enriched and encouraged". Then Governor William Tuck described Col. West "as one of Virginia's leading citizens" who "as a citizen and as an official...contributed much that is of value to the life of our Commonwealth."

Col. West was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery on January 3, 1947.

*For one year (1902-1903) between the Skiles family and the West family, the property was owned by William H. (Buck) Barnes, who lived there with his sisters, Betty and Pocahontas. The two sisters operated a school there for that year, according to their great-great niece, SNHS member Evelyn Daughtry. Both the sisters had been engaged to men who were killed in the War Between the States.*

*The Barneses had sold the family farm near Western Branch Baptist Church before coming in to town. Not only did they move all their worldly possessions, but they also moved the family graveyard. The Barneses are all buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.*

*Information from Evelyn Daughtry and Nansemond County Deed Books.*

## WEST RESIDENCE ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This three-story brick residence was a fine example of the Second Empire Mansard style of architecture and dates from the 1880s. The style gets its name from a French architect, Francois Mansard, who invented the unique roof form that extends over the third floor. He created this design in order to add another level to a dwelling without increasing the taxes that were



*This drawing taken from Pollock's 1886 Suffolk Sketchbook shows a house identified as the home of Dr. F. W. Skiles. Records show that Theresa Skiles had bought this lot from the widowed Mrs. Wellons in 1881. The Skiles family must have built this house soon after the land was purchased. Can anyone tell us more about the Skiles family?*

assessed in France by the number of floors of the house. This was possible since the top level was considered a roof and the windows were dormers in the roof although the floor area of the top level was nearly the same as the other floors of the house. This style became quite fashionable in nineteenth century Paris and its popularity extended to this county shortly thereafter.

The West residence was one of Suffolk's few and most elaborate examples of the Mansard style. The house was set on a large lot on the southeast corner of West Washington Street and St. James Avenue. The site initially consisted of the dwelling with a one-story rear wing, a frame carriage house and barn, and several smaller frame outbuildings. With the advent of the automobile, the carriage house and barn became a garage at which time Col. West added a scored concrete circular driveway.

The house was three stories tall and built of pressed brick with stone lintels and sills. Its facade consisted of five bays with a central entrance and large, two-over-two, double-sash windows with louvered blinds. Its decorative cornice consisted of a paneled frieze and carved brackets. The elaborate dormers within the Mansard slate roof had arched hoods and the larger central example was a three-part design. Twin tall chimneys with corbelled caps protruded through the roof.

The house initially was heated by the fireplaces located in each room on all three floors. Later, when gas lines were laid in Suffolk, gas heaters were installed in each fireplace. With the advent of central heat a coal-fired warm water radiator system was installed. Later, the furnace was converted to an oil burning system.

Col. West added new exterior elements to the existing house that resulted in a more pleasing and less vertical design than the original construction. His new wings consisted of an exterior porch on the east side and a porte-cochere on the west elevation. This feature was designed as an automobile entry in conjunction with the new circular driveway off St. James Avenue. At the same time a new entry element was added to match the side wings. All three compositions consisted of brick piers, classical cornices, and simple balustrades along the edges of the flat roofs. In addition, the areas were connected with a walkway behind a low brick wall that also contained cast stone balusters.

The interior was a double pile plan (two rooms deep) and a center hall. Elaborate carved mantels and woodwork of the period were installed in all the major rooms that had ten-foot ceilings. The main level consisted of a parlor, living room, dining room, library and kitchen. The rear wing, which was rebuilt during Col. West's renovations, held utility spaces and pantries on the ground floor with a conservatory that one entered from back stairs as well as from a landing on the main stairwell between the first and second floors. This wing also held dressing rooms and bathing facilities on the second floor. The second floor of the main house contained the two main bedchambers, a large guest suite, a smaller bedroom and a den. The top level held four additional bedrooms.

Upon Col. West's death the house was sold by the family. After several subsequent owners, the property was purchased by the neighboring West End Baptist Church in 1965. It was then demolished for a parking lot, although the original front walk, some of the driveway and two large magnolia trees remain from the era of the West family.



*The Skiles-West house*



*Top: Col. West with his Sunday School class at Suffolk Christian Church. A class at the church still carries his name.*  
*Top left: Col. and Mrs. West in the dining room of their home.*  
*Top right: Margaret West (Frazier) posed for her wedding picture in the parlor of the family home.*  
*Left: J. E. West shown with William Jennings Bryan in Driver in 1913. Bryan was serving as Secretary of State for President Woodrow Wilson.*

## THE KILBY-WELLONS-BAKER HOUSE



This house once occupied the lot at the corner of West Washington Street (known as Kilby Street then) and St. James Avenue. It is believed to have been built around 1835 and was the home of Thomas J. Kilby, who represented Nansemond County in the Virginia General Assembly.

Dr. W. B. Wellons lived there next. He was a minister of the Christian Church and started several churches, including Suffolk Christian Church, which was organized in 1860 at this house. (See West article this issue.) The story of Dr. Wellons's life deserves its own space, but one other pertinent note is this— While visiting the Wellons family home, Miss Sallie Brinkley, along with the family, received a report the Federals were planning an attack on Gen. Longstreet's forces (See Notes from Old Nansemond this issue). Miss Brinkley traveled at night by cart through enemy lines to get the word to General Longstreet.

Dr. Wellons died in 1877. In 1881 the house was moved around the corner to Wellons Street

(obviously named for the minister) where it still stands. The Skiles (West) house was then constructed on the corner lot. In 1885 the earlier house now on Wellons Street was purchased by R. W. Baker who started the funeral home that the fourth generation of his family still operates today.

The Kilby-Wellons-Baker house, full of history as it is, is now rental property at 125 Wellons Street.

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*This breathtaking vista is on the farm believed to have been occupied by General Longstreet during the war - see notes from Old Nansemond this issue*

## DR. WILLIAM BROCK WELLONS

1821-1877



William B. Wellons, born in Sussex County in 1821, would become another one of the notable men to inhabit a home at the corner of West Washington (Kilby) Street and St. James Avenue. As a young boy, he was enrolled in a private school in Sussex County. He attended the school for about seven years. Other than religious education received at church, he was not given any other instruction. In 1875 Rutherford College in North Carolina conferred on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

For many years he was an itinerate preacher and started or helped to start many Christian churches in Virginia and North Carolina. His autobiography states that in three years time he traveled more than 3,000 miles on horseback. In 1850 he married and settled in Suffolk. By 1859 Dr. Wellons and his wife were living in the first house that stood on the corner in question.

For twenty years, he published the Christian Sun, the official newspaper of the Christian Church. He was a great temperance advocate and served the cause in several capacities, including Secretary of the Supreme Council of Friends of Temperance in the United States.

An outspoken supporter of the Southern cause, he joined the Confederate Army as a chaplain. He witnessed the deaths and burials of many Suffolk and Nansemond County men at Petersburg. As a result, after the War he was able to help their families find the remains and bring them home to family burial plots.

He came back to Suffolk to find his newly formed congregation scattered and his home almost a shell. The latter was the result of the residence having been occupied by Union soldiers when the Wellons family fled. Wellons went to work to rebuild his congregation and his home.

In 1872 Suffolk Collegiate School opened with W. B. Wellons as president. At that point he was preaching in Antioch in Isle of Wight County, at Cypress Chapel in southern Nansemond County, and at Berea in Driver. He worked with Col. John Copeland to start the Farmers Bank in Suffolk and continued to publish the Christian Sun.

About this time his church in Suffolk was growing and prospering such that the congregation asked him to give up his other churches. However, when he retired from the ministry just months before his death, he was still regularly preaching at Bethlehem Church on Holland Road as well as at Suffolk Christian Church.

He died at the age of fifty-six. He was buried at Willow Hill Cemetery in an area known to many Suffolkians as Wellons Park. It is across Market Street from the Municipal Building and the Human Resources building is on part of that property today. At some point in the following years, the City acquired that land from Suffolk Christian Church and the graves of the Suffolk Christian Church members who were buried there were moved to Cedar Hill Cemetery. Dr. Wellons's impressive marker erected in his memory by his friends stands there today as a reminder of his useful life.

*Information from 1960 church history by Miss Gladys Yates and from an article by Carol Maguire in Suffolk Journal vol. II*

Here is a list of church members of Suffolk Christian Church- 1860 (from the church history compiled by Miss Gladys Yates in 1960).

W. B. Wellons  
Sarah L. Wellons  
Rives Wells  
Julia Wells  
James A. Parker  
Lucy Parker  
Robert B. Brinkley

James Pugh  
Frances Pugh  
Mary A. Higgins  
Sarah E. Norfleet  
James A. Turrentine  
Thomas J. Kilby \*  
Ann Upshur Kilby

Willis S. Riddick  
Mary Ann Riddick  
James A. Norfleet  
Emma Norfleet  
Caroline V. Riddick  
Thomas S. Kilby  
Annie E. Cutchin

Louisa Norfleet  
William T. Duke  
Louisiana Turrentine  
Elizabeth Ward

\* Thomas J. Kilby had lived in the Wellons house before the Wellons family came but by the time the church was started he and his family were living down the street in another house that is still standing, but that's another story.

There is still a cemetery across from the Municipal Center.  
The one that remains is private and is named Oak Lawn.

ITS PEOPLE AND ITS TRADE. 57

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*This ad appeared in Pollock's Sketchbook of Suffolk, 1886.  
The School was started by Dr. Wellons and attended by J. E. West*



*The back porch overlooked the working area of the yard.*

## NOTES FROM OLD NANSEMOND ENDANGERED

It is believed that this house on Manning Bridge Road was built around 1847 by a Colonel Copeland, a Mexican War veteran. Thought by area residents to have been a possible site of General Longstreet's headquarters during the Siege of Suffolk, Confederate troops likely camped on the farm. This area was in the no-man's-land between the town of Suffolk and the Blackwater River where frequent skirmishes occurred.

The earliest recorded deed (the last courthouse fire was in 1866) is dated February 3, 1887. At that time the property passed from the estate of William Eley to Cordy C. Whitfield. In 1901 the place was sold to John Thomas Smith, who owned it until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ray Johnson's grandmother, Mildred Boothe (later Mrs. Horace Johnson), used to visit at the house in the early 1920's when a Rountree family lived there. The Rountrees held parties for the county school children in the cozy English basement of the house. An icehouse located at the edge of the swamp was still in use in those days. Ray's grandmother remembered seeing names scratched in the windowpanes as well as writing on the rafters in the attic.

Mildred Boothe went to a one-room school (still standing but now a residence) on Old Somerton Road off Turlington Road and went to church at Bethlehem Christian (started by Dr. W.B. Wellons). The church is probably her connection to the Rountrees.

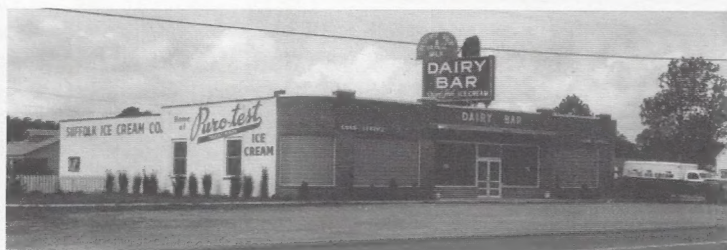
Sadly, the days of this house (see page 5) on this breathtaking site are numbered. The heads of the owner and the city planners are being turned by a developer who offers the possibility of a huge warehouse and the attendant financial rewards. The house is to be removed on that possibility. The warehouse, if it comes, will alter the land forever.

House and farm info thanks to Ray Johnson  
Deed Search by Patricia Hunter Smith



## POSTSCRIPT

Hope our local members saw the wonderful article in the February 21 issue of the Suffolk Sun. Soon after our mention of Greenfield Dairy in our last newsletter, the Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority uncovered the old sign as part of some renovations. Sad to say, the Authority chose to cover the sign again, but not before the Sun and SNHS got photos.



## THE SUFFOLK ICE CREAM COMPANY

This photo from archives shows a Greenfield Dairy Bar rival dairy bar that was near Elephants Fork across from present day Duke Automotive. The photo, taken in 1947, shows that they offered curb service and that they used milk from a rival dairy, the Rountree Dairy, which was where the new Nansemond River Golf Course is today.

Pearl Blair Harrell says that Jean Balance of Portsmouth taught dance classes in a room in this building.

The Purotest Ice Cream truck indicates that this business made deliveries, too. This building was considered far out of town to some folks who grew up in the old city.



*In two previous newsletters we have offered Holland notes that concerned a gentleman from Germany named Robert Riedel who came to live in Holy Neck and Holland. We inadvertently omitted his picture. Thanks to his granddaughter, Margaret (Peg) Petrone, who supplied the picture as well as a previous article.*

## MAILBAG

Here is an excerpt from a letter we received from SNHS member Jane Parker Bosman of Greenville, N.C. This is in response to a recent Suffolk Sun article about Cedar Hill cemetery. The writer wondered in the article who Surry Parker was and what happened to his wives.

Mrs. Bosman writes, "Surry Parker was married three times quite normally. He was born in 1866 and he and Ida Jane Whaley of Whaleyville were married very young. She died in 1895. His second wife (my mother) he married in 1899 and she died during an emergency operation in 1935. Patty Borland Odom, my aunt, became his third wife in 1942. Surry Parker died that same year. She died in 1945. [Mrs. Bosman's mother was Mary Shepard Odom Parker.]

As I told you previously, Surry Parker built the house at 216 Pinner Street for his parents. Capt. G.T. (Tom) Parker, C.S.A., was his father. The deed, I believe, reads 1893.

By the way, Surry Parker's lot in Cedar Hill is next to that of his first father-in-law, Mr. Seth Whaley, who also had three wives."

New SNHS member Judy Aull of Kansas City is searching for information. Her search is for Richard Staples b. about 1630 in Nansemond County. He married \_\_\_\_\_ Brasseur. At least two children - William and Joyce (m. Richard Reynolds) - are known. If you have information, Mrs. Aull's address is:

1025 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Terrace  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
E-mail: [judyau11@aol.com](mailto:judyau11@aol.com)

The January 17, 2002, Virginian Pilot carried an editorial by Jan Eliassen about the success Virginia Beach City Council has achieved by making a plan and sticking with it.

One part of this plan is this - "Preserve open space because it is fundamental to our quality of life and because open space enhances the value of every home."

Here is an excerpt regarding open space taken from Eliassen's editorial.

*The Agricultural Reserve Program, in conjunction with the Green Line, has saved us millions of dollars in unnecessary infrastructure costs for sprawl development and, at the same time, preserved large stretches of open space.*

*The ARP may be the most visionary program ever undertaken by our city, and it has been spectacularly successful. If you are a homeowner you have benefited from these efforts because they have made your home more valuable.*

*The open space program that the council passed last year has already preserved important greenscapes and will preserve many more. Evidence from other cities is that preserving green spaces actually increases the tax base because it enhances property values.*

## PRESERVATION WEEK IS MAY 12-19.

MAY 18 IS THE DAY.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "PRESERVING A SENSE OF PLACE"

WATCH FOR MORE INFO TO COME



*Ed and Peggy Simmer are at the top of the stairs with some of their hosts and hostesses. Front and center is George Blair who grew up just down the street.*

## TOUR 2001

With the land of the old Rose Hill Plantation as its location, this year's Candlelight Tour offered great variety to our guests. Our appreciation goes especially to Pam Pruden, who served as Tour Chairman this year and to our homeowners- Dr. and Mrs. Edward Simmer, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lee King, Mrs. Blanche Rountree, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Harvell, Mrs. Ann Barber, and Mrs. Constance Reid Happel.

The garden clubs were wonderful. Thanks to the Westover Garden Club that decorated the Simmer home, the Nansemond River Garden Club that was in charge of the

Barber home, the Suffolk Garden Club that decorated the Rountree home, the Chuckatuck Garden Club that was responsible for the Harvell residence, and the Riverview Garden Club that was in charge of the Happel residence. This year the garden clubs were kind enough to assume responsibility for hostesses as well. Thank you all.

Henrietta and Lee King decorated their own home with the help of Jane Moore and Phyllis Cornell. The Kings secured their own hosts and hostesses as well. Triple thanks to the Kings.

Thanks also to Mike and Karen Babb and other ticket sellers, to Brenda Kincaid and her parking help, and to all hostesses. Thanks to Brenda Wright of the Shooting Start Gallery who sponsored our tickets and to our brochure sponsors,

BB&T, Carr Investment Group of First Union Securities, Duke Automotive, Major Signs, Suffolk Insurance Corporation, and Suffolk Oil Company.



*Henrietta King lights candles in her dining room.*



*Far left: Pam Pruden at Riverpoint. Left: The Cemetery guides.*

## BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2002

The Society elects the board and the board elects the officers. New board members have been elected, but the election of officers has not yet occurred.

Tommy Arthur  
Michael Babb  
Kay Goldberg  
Connie Happel  
Steve Jackson  
Lee King  
Barbara McPhail  
Ann Powell  
Nancy Webb  
Sue Woodward

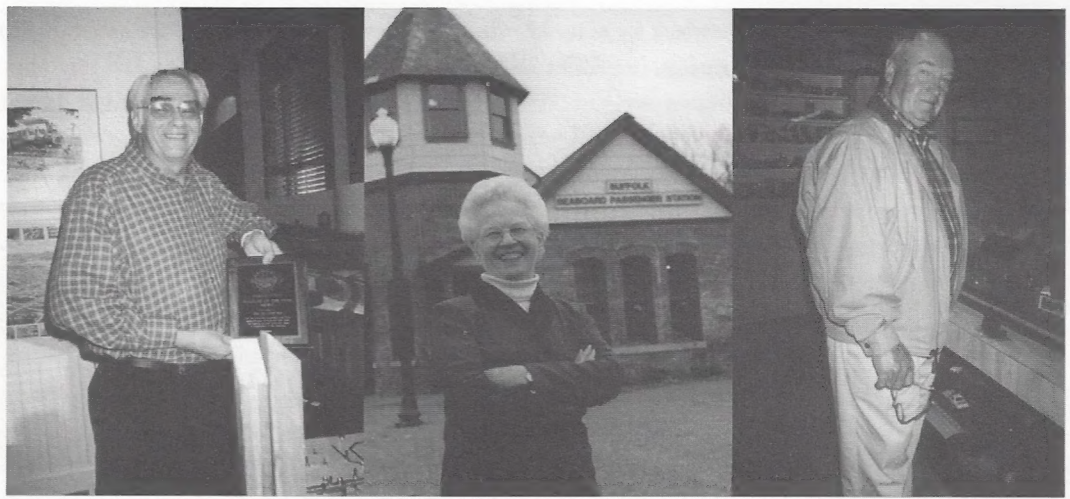
### Preservation of Historic Suffolk

George Consolvo-  
Chairman

Betsy Brothers  
Nancy Dempsey  
Barbara McPhail  
Deme Panagopoulos  
Pret Pretlow  
Sue Woodward

### Train Station Committee

Joe Barlow- Chairman  
Tommy Arthur  
Lynn Barlow  
Everett Birdsong  
Betsy Brothers  
Jim Caton  
Betty Chapman  
Susan Garrett  
Jim McLemore  
Barbara McPhail  
Les Milton  
Lynn Rose  
Percy Wilkins  
Sue Woodward



Left: Jim McLemore with award. Center: This picture of Train Station volunteer Betty Chapman was on the cover of the Lake Prince Center Bulletin this winter. Right: Sid Thomas enjoys a look at another model train.

## STATION NEWS

We've got a winner! Jim McLemore, the original force behind the 1907 depiction of Suffolk on our model railroad, has been named Model Railroader of the Year by the Tidewater Division of the National Model Railroad Association. Aside from doing an enormous amount of research, Jim has done all the landscaping and has built numerous buildings. His sense of humor and attention to detail add so much interest to the model.

This is not the first award that project participants have won, but we won't list them all yet as there are likely to be more. We are so grateful to friends like Mr. John Sharrett of Portsmouth and Mr. Herman Ervin of Suffolk, who have regularly checked on the progress of the model and have cheered us on since we opened in summer of 2000. The modelers started working in June of 2000.

We have the best volunteers. We have a large group, but we always need more. Stop by the station if you'd like to pick up a volunteer application.

The Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus train comes through Suffolk on the way to and from Norfolk each year. As we write this, our circus exhibit is on display.

The two new benches at the train station were donated by Teresa Chick in memory of her father, Homer Freeman. The benches are a wonderful addition to our station.

**CONGRATULATION TO  
THE ATHENA AWARD  
WINNER - OUR OWN  
BETSY BROTHERS**



Top: Betty Odom donated two clown costumes to the station for Circus Days here, in a photo by Harvey White. Our own volunteers Barbara McPhail (Babs the clown), far left, and Susan Garrett (Susie), far right, join Sparkles the Clown (Susie Eaton) and some young friends. Bottom: Betty Odom and Janice Thomas; Henry Odom. The Odoms and the Thomases, all volunteers, visited a huge model train layout in North Carolina during the Christmas season.



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Elsie W. Jordan  
Howard E. Kerpelman  
Betty Anne Kyle  
Virginia E. Laine  
James and Melissa Mathews  
Charlotte Andrews McCutcheon  
(In Memory of Floyd Benton)  
Myrtle Ann Mountcastle  
Mr. And Mrs. Thomas E. Murphy  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts is to encourage and advocate the visual and performing arts by providing a forum where diverse audiences can actively participate in cultural experiences. The Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts is committed to supporting the economic vitality of Suffolk through enhancing the life experiences of our citizens and visitors.

The minimum goal of the Capital Campaign is to raise the Center's estimated construction and renovation cost of \$10,000,000 through a funding mix of:

### PUBLIC FUNDS

Recognizing the cultural and economic impact that a Center of this magnitude can have on the entire City of Suffolk, the City Council has appropriated \$2,600,000 to the Center. Our goal is to obtain additional public funding totaling \$2,500,000.

### PRIVATE FUNDS

INDIVIDUALS \* FOUNDATIONS  
CORPORATIONS AND BUSINESSES

Fundraising efforts have successfully yielded \$1,600,000 from private sources. Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$3,000,000 from the private sector.

### HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

Upon completion of construction, the Center will be eligible for the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program through the Federal and State governments at an estimated \$3,300,000.

### TIMELINE

Sept. 1922 Suffolk High School Opened  
June 1990 Suffolk High School Closed  
Sept. 1998 Task Force Appointed  
February 2002 Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts Foundation  
Board Established  
February 2003 Architectural Construction Documents  
Completed  
July 2003 Construction Begins  
January 2005 Projected Grand Opening

### SUFFOLK CENTER FOR CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

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W. Ross Boone, John C. Harrell, Gail F. Pruden, Peter D. Pruden, III, Whitney G. Saunders, Joyce H. Trump, Michael T. Umscheid.

### About the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts...

The Suffolk Department of Parks & Recreation and the Early Childhood Development Commission will be housed in the Center. The building will also include The Center for Seniors. All three tenants will lease space, which will generate income. The Center will also feature an onsite restaurant and catering service. The restaurant will provide lunch and evening dining. Catering services will include food and beverages for all meetings and reception events to be scheduled in the Center's Board Room, Ballroom, and Conference Rooms located throughout the facility. Rental revenues will be generated from the use of these rooms.

The Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts will have a gift shop featuring unique art work created by local and regional artists.

Sales from the gift shop will serve as another source of income. The Center's dance, music and art studios will feature a full array of classes and workshops for beginners and advanced students. Rental of these art spaces, as well as class registration fees will provide additional income for the Center.

A technology lab is included in the master plan for the Center. The lab will allow citizens to advance their knowledge in computer-related hardware, as well as home, office, graphic and other specialized software. It will also provide accessibility to the Internet. The Center will feature a 1920's era museum classroom complete with related historical items from the Suffolk and Nansemond County Schools.

The original entrance to the High School will be enlarged to create a Great Hall. This new entrance will be flanked on each side by art galleries, creating a large reception area. The theater's box office and entrances will be located adjacent to the galleries. The 550-seat auditorium will be renovated and become a state-of-the-art theater. The space will be available for professional and amateur theater, music, and dance performances.

The Cultural Arts Amphitheater, adjacent to the High School, will be rebuilt to provide a space for outdoor performances, classes, special events, craft shows, storytelling festivals, and children's cultural art camps.

### ATTENTION SUFFOLK HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

The Foundation for the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts is beginning Phases II and III of fundraising for the project. We are still missing several classes of alumni that we need for our database. Please let us know if you have any information for the classes of 1928-37, 53-54, 61-62, 70-72, 75, 77 and 81-90. Call Barbara McPhail at (757)539-1131.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please circle the dues amount.

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Corporate</u>
Benefactor	\$1,000	\$5,000 plus
Sponsor	500	2,500
Patron	250	1,000
Friend	100	500
Contributing	50	250
Supporting	20	

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- as in the 70's song.*